



City of Surrey

Social Planning Committee

Minutes

Executive Boardroom
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2003
Time: 7:08 p.m.

Present:

Chairperson - Councillor J. Villeneuve
J. Brown
R. Day
S. DeRapp
J. Grafton
A. Khanzadah
S. Moore

Absent:

S. Blown
P. Joshi

Staff Present:

J. McLeod, Planning & Development
B. Beblo, Planning & Development
L. White, Parks, Recreation & Culture
K. Miller, Administrative Assistant

Also Present:

Councillor P. Priddy
L. Vincent, Community Liaison

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Social Planning Committee Minutes – Thursday, May 15, 2003.

It was

Moved by J. Grafton

Seconded by S. Moore

That the minutes of the Social Planning
Committee meeting held on May 15, 2003, be adopted.

Carried

B. PRESENTATION

1. Presentation by Councillor Penny Priddy on the emerging lessons from Dr. Clyde Hertzman's research involving measuring and mapping of early childhood development factors.

Councillor Priddy informed the committee that Dr. Fraser Mustard, McMaster University is recognized as having initiated the research into early child development in Canada, and promoted the importance of supporting early childhood development for children under the age of five and the long term benefits to the national economy.

Dr. Hertzman's work in Early Child Development (ECD) community mapping project complements the work of Dr. Mustard and brings together academic, government and community child development in neighbourhoods across BC. The project maps three components: child development, community assets and socio-economic characteristics of communities. By gathering and mapping key indicator data, we gain a better understanding of how these factors influence children's development and health, particular those children who are entering kindergarten.

The maps can also reveal important differences in child development between neighbourhoods and communities. Maps created by the ECD mapping project have been used to:

Heighten awareness of the importance of early child development;

- Prompt new policies and programs that help children get the best possible start in life;
- Show where children and families live, where programs and resources are, and how accessible those programs are to the families and children they are designed to support;
- Help identify which communities have large neighbourhood differences in the number of children who are healthy and ready for school, and
- Reveal where the gaps are in children's development and where change is needed.

Councillor Priddy further described Dr. Hertzman's findings, that by the time children enter kindergarten, it is possible to identify the children who have not had secure, nurturing and stimulating early childhood experiences. They are less ready for school than other children - intellectually, socially, emotionally and physically. Approximately 25% of Canadian children are developmentally vulnerable when they enter school.

Reducing inequality in child development will require us to bring about enduring social change, meaning that society needs to provide universal access to environments that support healthy child development, not just protection for those at risk.

Community mapping may be described as both a process and a product. Community mapping defines that the actual "community" represents, i.e., identifying the geographical boundaries of a community, along with the neighbourhood borders within it.

Collecting information on the relevant features and assets of the community may include information on the locations of programs and services for families and children, the availability of libraries, parks and other recreation opportunities, along with the community's socio-economic characteristics.

Once this information is gathered, it is analysed and mapped in relation to community data on children's development health, i.e. school readiness. The mapping process can also help create momentum for change in the community. By identifying what resources exist within the community and how these can be leveraged along with outside resources and support, communities can work together better meet the needs and challenges of their community members.

- Councillor Priddy explained how the mapping process makes a difference in child development.

Councillor Priddy encouraged the committee to consider housing developments and community projects which would benefit families and children. Councillor Priddy further encouraged the committee to consider zoning issues to allow for more daycare and service facilities for families throughout the community.

C. DISCUSSION OF PRESENTATION

- Transportation issues also present difficulties for families who are not close enough to services providers and facilities.
- In Surrey, where emerging neighbourhoods are being considered, it will be interesting to see what services will be installed.
- Learning initiatives (Penny Coates) based on Dr. Hertzman's research will shortly be used in Surrey.
- "Making Cities Livable" conference presents the premise that cities should be built with children in mind.

The committee welcomed Judy McLeod, Manager, Long Range Planning and Policy Development, to the meeting.

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Update on the Housing and Homelessness Forum:

The Social Planner provided a verbal report regarding the Housing and Homelessness Forum, which was very successful. Approximately 150 people attended the forum. The homeless task force, comprised of many community groups, is working together to prepare a homelessness plan and coordinate projects for potential federal funding.

There followed a discussion relative to the range of participants, keynote speakers, affordable housing policies, parks and recreation statistics, and the progressing rate of homelessness.

The committee discussed the potential impact of the Provincial government's changes to income assistance and disability that are due to come into effect next April. It was suggested that the Social Planner invite a representative of the Ministry of Human Resources to attend a future meeting.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. The committee reviewed and discussed its 2003 work activities.
 - A sub-committee consisting of the Social Planner, J. Brown, J. Grafton, R. Day, and S. DeRapp was established to plan the Social Planning Awards taking place in November. A sub-committee meeting date was set for Thursday July 24, 2003 in place of regular scheduled meeting.

F. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

1. Resolutions adopted by Council on June 9, 2003 - for information:

The Administrative Assistant was requested to forward correspondence to the federal government, members of parliament and members of the provincial legislature.

G. UPDATES

1. Surrey/White Rock: Child, Youth & Family Network: A. Khanzadah provided an update relative to the funding cuts and employment lay-offs, as well as grants bestowed from local and provincial governments. The committee then reviewed the 2002/3 action plan.
2. Joint Family Court Committee (JFCC): J. Grafton reported that the committee is currently working on ways and means to raise the JFCC's profile. Concerns were expressed relative to the lack of representation from Council. The JFCC is currently planning to appear as a delegation to each of the joint councils to provide information on the committee's activities.
3. Hyland House - Shelter Advisory Committee: L. Vincent reported that the committee is now meeting once a month. The finishing touches are being put on the building, and the facility is not yet fully booked. It was suggested that a tour of the facility be arranged for the committee.

H. CORRESPONDENCE

1. The committee reviewed correspondence to Carol Hogan, Member of CRONIC, Concerned Residents of Newton In-Committee).

I. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. "Becoming the Solution, Article in the Peace Arch News, June 10, 2003, interview with Aaron Sigmund on moving from homelessness to work, family and stable housing.
2. "Two-day forum kicks off homelessness report", article in the Surrey Leader, June 15, 2003, summarizing the forum with comments from Terry Roberts, Calgary Homelessness Foundation.
3. "Sharing Issues, Sharing Solutions" Resources and Information Session for South Asian Youth, Parents & Community, June 22, 2003 at Bear Creek Hall, 8580 - 132 Street, Surrey, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

the information items.

It was Moved by J. Grafton
Seconded by S. Moore
That the Social Planning Committee receive

Carried

J. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

**1. Council Resolution - June 23, 2003
South Fraser Community Services Gateway Homeless Shelter**

The Chair provided a report relative to the Council resolution of June 23, 2003 Regular Meeting, at which time it was resolved that staff provide a report to Council regarding year-round provincial funding for the South Fraser Community Services Gateway Homeless Shelter.

K. NEXT MEETING

The next regular scheduled meeting of the Social Planning Committee is for Thursday, September 25, 2003.

A meeting of the sub-committee is scheduled for Thursday, July 24, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the Executive Boardroom.

L. ADJOURNMENT

It was

meeting do now adjourn.

Moved by S. Moore
Seconded by J. Grafton
That the Social Planning Committee

Carried

The Social Planning Committee adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Chairperson